Probabilistic Risk-Based Model: Assessment of Phytosanitary Risk Reduction Associated with Seed Quality Management Practices



Examples of Applied Probabilistic risk assessment models

 Citrus Black Spot: Probabilistic Risk-based Model for International Citrus Fruit Trade Security

Seed production

Variety

Initial breeding material

- Citrus Huanglongbing (HLB): Risk-based Residential and Commercial HLB/Asian Citrus Psyllid Survey for California, Texas, and Arizona
- 3. US Census/International Travel Survey: Riskbased Targeted Survey via GIS Mapping to predict points of introduction of Exotic Plant, Animal and Human pathogens
- Plum Pox Virus (PPV): Risk-based Survey Model for early detection and regulatory intervention



Citrus Black Spot Probabilistic Risk-based Model for International Trade Security: *Examine risk of fruit as* a pathway vector for introduction to new areas, ex. FL to EU





www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/edcenter/seminars/Outreach/Citrus/HLB

US Census/International Travel Survey – Predictive Risk Mapping Model for Exotic Plant, Animal and Human Disease/Pest Introductions (Birth Country:Travel Bias = 1:3)



Plum Pox Virus (PPV): Risk-based Survey Model for early

detection and regulatory intervention







Final risk mapping







• Consumers expect healthy, disease-free seeds.

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- Identify and optimize phytosanitary issues: Costly and damaging to the entire seed industry when are not timely identified.
- Aid in the development of international phytosanitary standards to support a more predictable trade environment.

Expected Outcomes

- Method to quantitatively assess how steps in production practices reduce phytosanitary risks.
- General framework that can be applied to any plant system (pathosystem).
- Framework on which to develop/justify international phytosanitary standards



In general follows the Guide to seed quality management practices (qualitative)

- **Created by ASTA in July 2010.**
- Step-wise guidance for developing quality management practices.
- Follows Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) principles.
- Eight modules from incorporation of a trait into a breeding program through commercial seed production and sale.
- How does following quality management practices affect phytosanitary risk concerns?

Proposed Risk model Pathosystems - Tomato

1. Clavibacter michiganensis subsp. michiganensis (Cmm)

Very complex system:

- Multiple tomato production methods.
- Cmm can survive for long periods under broad conditions.
- Tomato infected with Cmm may remain asymptomatic for some time.



Bacterial canker symptoms on fruit



- Survival possible in soil, plant debris, weed hosts, volunteer plants, and seed.
- Dispersal through wind and water.

Potato spindle tuber viroid (PSTVd) – On Tomato!

- Mechanical transmission
- Frequency of seed transmission appears uncertain at this time.



General seed production pathway





Benefits of risk assessment model

- Formal procedure to assess the significance of risks and an input into decision making.
- Quantification of each step in the seed pathway.
- Identify phytosanitary issues quickly (high risk outcomes).
- Numerically test how changing production practices will affect phytosanitary risks.
- Compare critical control points (i.e., which critical control points are more critical than others? Which contribute most risk!)
- Effort spent on preventative measures will lesson reliance on crisis management.

Goes beyond HACCP

 Identify steps in the pathway that contribute the highest amount of risk (sensitivity analysis).

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- Anticipation and contingency planning; 'whatif' scenarios.
 - Can test any scenario and estimate risk reduction or increase.
- Discover steps in the pathway that can be adjusted to reduce risk, and the amount of reduction that would be expected due to the change implemented.



Data Sources

- Data mining of Published Literature
 - Much is available
- Acquire data directly from seed production companies
 - Some production methods may be specific to individual company
 - Need data resulting from specific method application

• Where no data is available:

- Define precise missing data
- Design and conduct experiments to fill data gap
- Analyze data and use to populate model

Example: Greenhouse tomato production flow (from website) – one possible pathway



- Individual companies and situations will vary of course.
- We will try to capture these variations

Example: Known data for Bacterial canker (cmm) control efficacy - extracted from the scientific literature



- Numbers of Cmm necessary to affect seed health and transmission are small (A. Alvarez)
 - As few as 25 cfu/seed inhibit germination
 - As few as 600 cfu/seed kill seedlings
 - Infestations of seeds within a seed lot are variable
- 1-5 infested seeds in 10,000 sufficient to start epidemic
 - Chang et al. Phytopathology 81: 1276

Treatment	Cmm-infested seed (%)	Seed Vigor Index	
Control	11.8 b	801 ab	
Kasugamycin	10.1 bc	603 c	
H ₂ O ₂	15.3 a	803 ab	
Streptomycin	6.3 d	766 b	
Thymol	2.3 ef	747 с	
Dry heat	7.6 cd	536 d	
Hot water	-	785 b	
KleenGrow	0 f	797 ab	
Virkon-S	0 f	789 b	
NaClO 50°C	0 f	778 b	
HCI	0 f	833 a	



Methodology: Risk Modeling to determine risks associated with each step in the pathway

Monte Carlo simulation

Example Input variable Output distribution distributions Normal Result of 10,000 to Breeding Field 100,000 simulations sanitation 0.20 Triangular 0.15 Seed disinfectant Propagate Frequency treatment risk from 0.10 each input 0.05 ۲ **Beta** Increase 0.00 Field sanitation **Accumulated Risk**

'what if' scenarios

RISK OF **LOW** DISEASE PRESSURE ENVIRONMENT

RISK OF **HIGH** DISEASE PRESSURE ENVIRONMENT



Output shifted to the right – higher risk



Monte Carlo simulation

- A statistical technique used to model probabilistic (or "stochastic") systems and establish the odds for a variety of outcomes.
- Allows for complex interactions among several variables.
- Uses random input distributions (with realistic limits) with different input distributions.
- With our computer systems, minimal time needed to run large numbers of iterations which improves accuracy of output distributions.
- Highlights the relative impact of each variable.

Output distributions



- Frequency: Number/proportion of non-clean "infected" seeds per unit (lot, bulk, etc.).
- Severity: Concentration of infection per unit.

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- For some phyto sanitary concerns, some maximum threshold may be allowable (i.e., severity threshold below which the product is suitable).
- **Detectability:** Correction factor for probability of infection prior to detection.
 - Some pathogens, such as Cmm, may yield asymptomatic (nondetectable) plants for some time.
- **Correctability:** Correction factor for feasibility of implementing corrective action.
 - Some hazards (employees not always handwashing) can be more easily (cheaper) mitigated than others (moving all production to GSPP-compliant greenhouses).

Sensitivity analysis: What steps in the pathway contribute the greatest risk (to target)?

- Method to rank input variables by their influence on the final risk level.
- Comparisons among input variables are typically illustrated on a tornado plot.

Seed production

Variety

breeding material





Model flexibility

- The Monte Carlo methods with sensitivity analysis can account for the entire seed pathway (breeding to sales) or for just variables that affect one portion (factors related to planting location).
- We suggest evaluating multiple subsets of variables when making risk management decision(s).
 - A variable may be the most influential in regards to a small portion of the whole pathway, but much less influential (and not worth the cost of mitigating) when the entire pathway is analyzed.
- Although each model is specific to a pathosystem (seed species and pathogen/pest), the overarching framework is malleable and can be adapted to other pathosystems as needed, i.e. to many seed production systems.

Example: seed production operations planting preparation

- Some possible phytosanitary concerns in association with planting for tomato seed stock:
 - The nearest distance to a known Cmm infected plant.
 - Level of weed control in field, borders, and nearby fields.
 - Probability of infested soil.

Seed production

Variety testing

Initial breeding

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Breeding in field

- Amount of plant debris in area.
- Concentration of Cmm in irrigation water/system.
- Level of contamination/disinfectant of any materials used for planting or pruning.
- Number of times any contaminated material comes in contact with plant material.
- Risks from production workers (hands, clothing).
- With supporting data (distributions), each of these scenarios (and many more) can be quantified and included in the risk assessment.

Risk-based assessment modules

 Eight modules are considered from the point of incorporation of seed into breeding program to commercial seed production & sale.

Module 1 – Incorporation of seed into breeding material Module 2 – Greenhouse or other contained facility Module 3 – Laboratory or storage facility Module 4 – Field	Module 5 – Variety & trait testing Module 6 – Breeder seed & seed stock development Module 7 – Plant preparation and operations Module 8 – Commercial seed sales
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- Aside from specific aspects of production, we are also interested in quality assurance/control tomato seed production guidelines individual companies utilize.
- Depending on specific protocols and production guidelines, individual modules may collapse to a single risk factor.
- A model will be designed in a way to accommodate various general seed business models & practices, and determine their final seed quality control performance by propagating risk from each module.

We have begun to translate these modules into an initial model framework: Flow chart for Phytosanitary Risk modelling



Example Module 2: Tomato, Bacterial canker (cmm)





Building the model: Step 1

- Identify variables to include in the model.
- Need to rely on expert opinion, literature, and published/ not published data, proprietary.
- Potential need for 'gap-filling' research!

Example: 5 variables for Cmm

- 1. Distance to Cmm infected plants
- 2. Number of occurrences where pruning tools have Cmm
- 3. Cmm concentration in irrigation water
- 4. Plant debris (units) in nearby fields
- 5. Number of employees that forget to wash their hands





 From available data or expert opinion, choose (statistically fit) the most appropriate input distribution to represent the risk associated with each variable.



Step 3

Create a function for each input distribution to chose values in the Monte Carlo simulation.



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Initial breeding material

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Step 4

- In each iteration, the Monte Carlo simulation will choose a value from the function related to each input distribution.
- Complex systems and interactions among input variables area properly accounted for.
- Standardize resulting risk values.





Model complexities

- Input variables can be independent or correlated with each other.
 - Risk from independent variables results is a simple summation (example).
 - Risk from correlated events can be weighted and multiplied.
- Critical control points that when implemented can reduce all possible risk to zero are implemented. Build in If... Then... Else step to halt model.

Example:

Initial

breeding

If Distance > 500 m, then Risk=0, else Risk (generated from the gamma distribution)

Seed production

'what if' scenarios

- What is the reduction in risk of Cmm contamination if a company (Company A) guarantees they only produce tomato seed in an environment far from any current sources of Cmm (i.e., guarantee a low disease pressure environment).
- Some variable are overarching, If risk =0, then entire pathway stops and overall pathway risk is 0.



Function used to choose input data will only allow values greater than the specified distance guaranteed by Company A.

Initial breeding

Step 5

Conduct multiple iterations and examine results.



Seed production

Variety testing

Seed stock

Initial breeding material

Seed

Breeding in field

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Commercial sales

Model application to reduce risk: 'what if' scenarios

RISK IN A **TYPICAL** DISEASE PRESSURE ENVIRONMENT

RISK IN A **LOW** DISEASE PRESSURE ENVIRONMENT







- Method to conduct "pathway analysis" with any plant system.
- 2. Method to identify phytosanitary concerns prior to largescale (high-cost) problems.
- 3. Method to clearly indicate how your production practices reduce phytosanitary risks.

1. Assure regulatory agencies and customers 'How you stack up'!

- 4. Objective "outside" scientific risk assessment. Then members of ASTA can choose to apply the assessment to their own risk management procedures.
- 5. Full transparency of the risk assessment communicated to ASTA.

Project Phases: TASC Grant Funding

• Phase 1: Aug 2014 - July 2015

Seed production

- Acquire data on various steps in the seed production pathways for "pathosystems" Cmm and PSTVd
- Develop risk model framework
- Construct initial risk model and test
- Phase 2: Aug 2015 July 2016
 - Model validation

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- Develop generic model if feasible
- Deploy to ASTA and interested parties
- Begin adapting to other pathosystems as needed/required
- Phase 3: Aug 2016 July 2017
 - Deploy new model adaptations
 - Continue to develop for alternative pathosystems as requested

What we need from you (Seed production companies)

- Data for input distributions (understand and appreciate that some data may be proprietary).
- Goal post = Threshold levels

Seed production

Variety

breeding

- Set thresholds of tolerable risk at the conclusion of each pathway AND at multiple points along the pathway.
- Helpful if thresholds are specified early in model development.
- Mean and variability.

Information needed from seed production companies!

- First we would like set up some phone discussions with key industry representatives to better understand the breadth of the systems used.
- Then we will prepare a questionnaire based on your input on specific production system information and circulate it to capture the data.

Module 3 – Laboratory or storage facility

- 1) Starting material
 - a. Disease incidence of lot/test detection limit
 - b. Effectiveness of cleaning method of receiving containers
- 2) Planting
 - a. Is Cmm inoculation testing conducted at the location?
 - b. Sanitary level where planting/handling occurs?
 - c. # of times/employees forget to wash hands/equipment
 - d. Water source concentration of Cmm
 - e. Pathogen-free media used?
 - f. Plants inspected for Cmm?
 - g. Growing media and ground covers changed since last crop?
 - h. Climate controlled?
 - i. Temperature
 - ii. Relative humidity
 - iii. # hours leaf wetness per day (and after sunset)
 - i. Irrigation method (overhead, drip...) coupled with volume of water during each watering
 - j. Level of weed control
 - k. Amount of plant debris in area
 - 1. During roguing, number/level of adjacent asymptomatic plants also removed
 - m. Method of culling/plant disposal
 - i. Piled without burying
 - 1. Distance of cull pile to greenhouse/production site?
 - ii. Burying/composting plants
 - 1. Distance of cull pile to greenhouse/production site?
 - iii. Others? (incineration?)
 - n. Seed treatment?
 - i. Hot water/dry heat
 - ii. Acetic acid
 - iii. Other
 - o. Shipment of starting material
 - i. Transport vehicles inspected/cleaned to be sanitary?
 - ii. Type of transport vehicle (open, closed, controlled environment...)
 - iii. Transport vehicles climate controlled (free of instances of compromised climate control integrity?) and free of moisture pockets?
 - iv. Distance shipped coupled with impenetrability of shipping container to outside environment (resistance to being contaminated with Cmm)
 - v. Distance of ground transportation through an area known to have Cmm hosts/infection?
 - vi. Effectiveness of cleaning regime upon receipt

Risk assessment of seed production: From breeding to sale



Thank You for you time and attention!

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Budget for Probabilistic Risk assessment of seed production systems

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	
ARS Costs	2014	2015	2014	3-yr. Total
1 Post Doc (model construction, validation, adaption to generic pathosystems)	\$ 92,892.15	\$ 97,536.76	\$ 98,700.00	\$289,128.91
GS-7 technicians (data harvesting and input)	\$ 52,366.50	\$ 54,984.83	\$ 57,734.07	\$165,085.39
Materials and supplies (core extension to multicore simulation computer)	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 13,000.00
Travel (To become familiar with various/key seed production systems and aquire data; and attend meetings to report on progress)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Subtotal	\$164,258.65	\$159,521.58	\$163,434.07	\$487,214.30
ARS overhead (10%)	\$ 16,425.87	\$ 15,952.16	\$ 16,343.41	\$ 48,721.43
ARS Total	\$180,684.52	\$175,473.74	\$179,777.47	\$535,935.73

Seed production

Variety

Initial breeding material

• Will likely require research on the part of other parties to fill in gaps in seed production pathway data not currently available.

Risk assessment of seed production: breeding to sale



Monte Carlo simulation



Monte Carlo simulation

